

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA

**December 13, 2016**

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ben Babin, David Hoover, Burrell Carter, James "Jimmy" Little, Terry Louque, Anthony "Tony" Rouchon, Don Thompson, Kenneth "Wade" Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Willie George Lee, Jerry Thibeau, Larry Thomas

MEMBER ARRIVED AT 6:24 pm: Tamiara Wade

MEMBER ARRIVED AT 6:33 pm: Lionel Bailey

ALSO PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Babin.

2. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None

4. Minutes

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Hoover to approve the November 2016 regular meeting minutes as presented.

5. Financial Statement Report:

- Hoover presented to the Board the November 2016 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Thompson to approve the November 2016 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.

- 2015-16 Audit Report: John McKowen, CPA: The audit reflected no violations of state rules or deficiencies. In the opinion of the auditor the ARBC is in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and the Legislative Auditors Office, as well as internal controls of financial matters within the district. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Louque to accept the audit report as presented. Wade entered the meeting during the Audit Report at 6:24 p.m. Bailey entered the meeting following the vote to approve the audit report at 6:33 pm.

6. Report by Executive Director

- After the Flood of record in August 2016, ARBC completed a "Highwater Marks" survey to determine the flood water elevations in the Amite River Basin, from the northern part of the Basin, St. Helena and East Feliciana Parish, to the southern part of the Basin in Livingston and Ascension Parishes. ARBC has completed a report summarizing all of the highwater readings. Our next step in this endeavor should be to produce a map showing inundation levels in the different parts of the Basin. This could become a very valuable tool in the future to assess risk. Carter suggested contacting the governor's office.

- Great effort is being spent by ARBC & DOTD towards finalizing the plans and specifications of the utility relocations needed in order to build the bridges at U.S. Hwy 61. This work is critical in order to begin construction of the canal.

- Discussed holding a training meeting to bring the new commissioners up-to-date on the ARBC and on the CRDC Project.

- DOTD Report: Requested the ROE for soil borings on La. Hwy. 19 be signed.

7. ARBC Legal Counsel:

- Met with Secretary of DOTD concerning asking Budgetary Committees for funds to be made available to them since they are out of funds at this time that would allow them to continue purchasing property. It would require funds being moved to a different priority in Capital Outlay so they can continue purchasing property.

- Mentioned Governor Edwards request to the Feds for \$120 million for the CRDC Project. We should know by January 20, 2017 if this request will be granted.

- The DOTD acquires property in the name of ARBC and then invoice ARBC for 50% of the cost. Discussed the invoice for ADV-7 and 8. On occasion, the total includes the cost of the property and relocations.

8. Old Business: None

9. New Business:

- The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon seconded by Bailey to approve payment of invoice for ADV-7 & ADV-8.

- The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon seconded by Hoover to approve ROE for soil borings at La. Hwy. 19.

10. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Hoover to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

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/s/ Ben Babin

Ben Babin, ARBC President

Date: January 17, 2017

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/s/ Toni B. Guitrau

Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary